

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mullarkey (U.S. Patent 6,005,812).

Please note that Claim 17 has been amended to properly depend on Claim 14, and Claim 21 has been amended to properly depend on Claim 13. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 1 under §112, second paragraph, the Examiner states that there is no support in the specification for the statement “the pump control signal being based on the clock control signal”. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the drawings, namely Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, and its description for a clear description and support. Fig. 4 clearly shows that each voltage generator receives a power control signal and a clock control signal, that these signals are used to generate a control signal CS, which in turn is used by the regulator system to produce control signal BC, i.e. a pump control signal, that is used to control a charge pump, as described on pages 8-9 of the specification. The pump control signal (BC of Fig. 4) is certainly, at least in part, “based on” the clock control signal (CES of Fig. 4). Therefore, the specification clearly supports that the pump control signal is based on the clock control signal as recited in Claim 1. Based on at least the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action the Examiner raises a new issue in the paragraph “Continuation of No. 5”. Therein, the Examiner states “controlling the on and off operation with a ‘control signal’ would not be deemed the same as ‘outputting at least one voltage level in accordance’” with the control signal. The pump control signal BC generated by the regulator system is received by a pump system to eventually output at least one voltage level. Outputting at least one voltage level by a pump system is well known in the art. Applicants’ respectfully request further clarification as to the exact nature of the Examiner’s objection.

Please note that Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the control signals that are generated by the claimed system. No new matter has been added.

Please note that in order to clarify the claimed invention, independent Claims 1 and 13, and dependent Claims 6, 9, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended to change “chip” to read

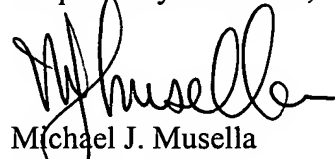
“integrated circuit”. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that as recited in the claims, a plurality of DC voltage generators are located on a single integrated circuit. The term “integrated circuit” recited in the claims is not a DRAM. A memory device and an integrated circuit are clearly distinguishable to those skilled in the art.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 13, the Examiner states that Mullarkey discloses all of the elements of the claims. Mullarkey discloses a device and method for supplying current to a semiconductor memory to support a boosted voltage within the memory during testing. No single integrated circuit or chip in Mullarkey contains more than one voltage generator. The integrated circuit of independent Claim 1 and 13 contain “a plurality of local DC voltage generators”. Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Without conceding the patentability of dependent Claims 2-12 and 14-21, it is respectfully submitted that they are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on independent Claims 1 and 13, respectively.

Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants’ attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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